

The Good News  
Bad News Edition



You are making a  
difference!

## Haiti: The Good News and The Bad News

There never seems to be a shortage of bad news coming out of Haiti. In this issue, we at Servants for Haiti want to make sure you get a balanced view of progress there, some critical, some trivial.

*The good news is that the situation in the nation as a whole has stabilized considerably. Kidnappings and crime in general have dropped. UN presence is far lower than it has been in past years.*

The bad news is there is still a long way to go. Tragedy and death are constant companions to the average Haitian. On July 12, for example, at least 6 people died and as many as two dozen were missing when a ferry capsized off the nation's southern coast.

*The good news is that progress in the fight against AIDS in Haiti has been so phenomenal that they are being touted as a role model to other developing nations.*

*Between 1993 and 2003, tests of the rate of infection in pregnant women (one of the few reliable ways to get AIDS statistics in Haiti at the time) dropped from 6.2 to 3.1 percent. Based on more recent tests, the infection rate is estimated at only 2.2 percent. While still high, the rate is much lower than many other Caribbean and African nations. After years of Haiti being unfairly labelled as one of the major contributors to the AIDS crisis worldwide, such progress is miraculous.*

The bad news is that quality healthcare in Haiti is unavailable to most citizens. Infant mortality rates remain the highest in the western hemisphere. A pregnancy too often results in the mother's death. In some areas, people pay witch doctors exorbitant rates for treatments that may be poisonous.

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*Mimose leads the children of Kingdom Kids orphanage in a song.*

## Contacting Servants for Haiti

Email:  
info@servantsforhaiti.org  
U.S. Mail:  
P.O. Box 1214  
Westford, MA 01886  
Phone: (978) 692-2294

*You can help us lower our costs even more by sending us your email address so that we can keep you posted with the latest updates from SFH without paying postage!*

## Good News/Bad News - Continued from page 1

The good news is that the children of Kingdom Kids orphanage continue to thrive. More adoptions are in process. They attend school and church, learn English and sewing. They receive love and encouragement from the caregivers and nourishing food from the kitchen staff.

*The bad news is that there is yet more need. As the orphanage receives more and more younger children, there is a greater need for caregivers. SFH has committed to hiring more workers, but we hope to fund more still. The CJRA school also has plenty of room for more students and there is no shortage of children willing to enroll. Again, it's a matter of funding.*

The final good news is you. Yes, you as a supporter of Servants for Haiti have been faithful in the past. Between your generosity and our persistence in seeking out new funding opportunities, we will turn the bad news around so there is only good news!

## 2009 Trip Reports

*We continue to send teams to Haiti as often as possible. In recent months alone, there have been three trips. Besides a small team in March gathering info and checking up on the progress being made at our projects, two work teams traveled to Haiti in June and July. Here and on our web site, you will find trip reports from team veterans and neophytes alike. As usual, we hope you develop a healthy envy of the exciting experiences these team members have had. If you contact us today, you might be able to join the November 2009 team. You can get complete details by emailing us at info@servantsforhaiti.org . You won't forget it or regret it. Guaranteed!*

*This report is from Julia, a 15-year-old on our June/July team who was on her first trip to Haiti. Sounds like it might not be her last!*

Going to Haiti was definitely one of the best and most moving experiences of my young life. Before going, my family can tell you that I was very nervous and a little bit regretful of making the decision to go there. But upon arrival in the Port-au-Prince airport, I was certain that God had definitely called me to Haiti and that I was supposed to be there. I fell in love with the people and the joy they had was contagious. I loved the beauty of the culture and the pride they had even though they had next to nothing. But more than anything, I fell in love with the children. I tried to take every opportunity I could get to go down and play with the kids. They were the sweetest, most adorable children I've ever met in my life, and I will always hold a special place in my heart for them. I loved going to Haiti and I am so thankful that God has blessed me by giving me that experience to treasure forever in my heart.



*In March, some SFH board members traveled to Haiti to check on our work there. This report is from a board member who had not visited for some time.*

## New Feeding Program Director

Although I am on the board of SFH, for personal reasons I have been unable to travel to Haiti for a few years. When I last visited, Kingdom Kids orphanage didn't even exist. As a result of my long absence, I was anxious to get up to date on all that was going on with our work there. To say I was pleased with what I saw would be a gross understatement.

The thing that impressed me most was how well the orphanage was doing. There were kids everywhere, mostly running around and playing. One of the people I traveled with had brought coloring books and crayons for the children. These small gifts were received with a gratitude and excitement unprecedented by American standards for such a small token. The kids literally spent hours coloring and handing out the fruits of their labors to anyone who would receive them.

It occurred to me that without the financial assistance of SFH, some of these children might not even be alive today. Such a reality is both humbling and frightening, but it is also a challenge to do more and reach more.

The kids watched after each other. They got along without incident. They were orderly and disciplined during eating and teaching times. Such behavior is hard enough to imagine in a small family, but in an understaffed orphanage with about thirty children, it was near miraculous.

I also spent some time at CJRA school, which was almost deserted due to exams. I had a chance, however, to renew a friendship with a young man that I have known since he was a small child. He has been sponsored for many years through SFH and prior programs. Today, he is a walking, talking endorsement of the benefits of sponsorship. His poise, intelligence, wit and charm would be appreciated by any parents in their own children. To have come this far under the conditions he has known is a marvel. It causes me to consider the wasted potential of all the young lives who have not had the benefit of support as he has.

All in all, this trip was a highlight of my life, as indeed most of my trips to Haiti have been. I can't encourage people strongly enough who have not visited Haiti to do so on some future team.



The feeding program at College Jean Rigaud Antoine (CJRA) has a new director. Basile Joseph will oversee the feeding of the children enrolled in the school. Hopefully, we can increase his workload by constantly adding sponsored children and expanding the feeding program to include more unsponsored children. Contact us to see how you can help.

**Fundraising Flash!!**  
Use [goodsearch.com](http://goodsearch.com) as your search engine and they will donate money to SFH. Just specify "Servants for Haiti" as your charity of choice. For complete up-to-date details see our web site. Meanwhile, search and give!



*Two proud CJRA students*

## Fund Raising News and Notes

*There is a problem at CJRA, the school supported by SFH. Although about 500 children attend the school, only half have either the means to pay for lunch or are sponsored by SFH. The other half spend lunchtime playing while their friends eat. SFH is trying to address this inequity. Earlier this year, one church helped out by holding a unique fund raising program:*

Do you have coins in your pocket, under the cushions, or on the kitchen counter? It's estimated that there is about 7.7 billion dollars in loose change out of circulation, often collected in bottles and piggy banks in our homes.

What if we pooled all those coins and sent them to Haiti? They could feed many students for months. Three churches: Grace Community Church in Chelmsford, MA, New Life Church in Meriden, CT, and West Brattleboro (VT) Baptist Church collected coins to feed those "left behind" students. SFH supplied bottles for people to fill with coins. They were brought home, to work, to the gym and school.

When the "Loose Change" fundraiser was over, all those bottles filled with pennies, nickels, and dimes - yes, there were a few bills in there, too - added up to \$8133.75! That money will go to feed unsponsored students at CJRA. Now the kitchen staff won't have to turn away as many hungry students just because they haven't been sponsored yet.

All with loose change that was hanging around people's houses doing nothing.

*continued in column 2*

## Servants for Haiti Board of Directors

SFH is staffed by a volunteer board of directors.

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SFH salutes and thanks these three churches for their generosity and innovative fund raising.

Would you too like to be part of the solution? Here are two ways you can:

**1. Hold your own Loose Change fundraiser. Contact us at [info@servantsforhaiti.org](mailto:info@servantsforhaiti.org) for help running this program.**

**2. Sponsor a child or two... or more. Every student sponsored is one less child who requires the help of this extra feeding program.**

Feeding hungry children with loose change. It makes sense of cents and it makes a real difference to real kids.

## - Haiti - In the News

Former President Bill Clinton was recently named a special envoy to Haiti on behalf of the United Nations. After seeing the devastation caused by four hurricanes last fall, Clinton committed his philanthropic efforts to help the people of Haiti, the poorest country in the western hemisphere. "I believe Haiti is better positioned to make progress for all its people than at any time since I first visited in 1978," he said in a recent article in the Miami Herald. "It offers unique opportunities for public and private investment to improve health and education in ways that will be good for Haitians and all their partners in our interdependent world."

### Did You Know??

Servants for Haiti is an officially recognized 501(3)(c) non-profit organization under the Internal Revenue Code. You or your group can deduct donations to SFH at tax time!

### SFH Board Update

A new member has joined the board of Servants for Haiti. Natalie Decker has traveled to and worked feverishly in Haiti many times since her first trip in 2000 as a high school student. Since then, she has been through college and gotten married, but her passion and love for the children of Haiti have not waned. All this passion and experience - not to mention her complete lack of fear of heights ☺ - will be a great addition to our board. Welcome Natalie!